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years. By all the recognized physical and chemical tests this cement passes the British standard specification, but in respect of manufacture it would be barred because slag has been added to it after clinkering. In Scotland a form of this cement has been made for the past 11 years called Coltness Portland cement.

In addition to increasing sources of supply, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is making inquiries into the question of the more economical working of processes which have become traditional, with a view to spreading the knowledge thus gained. There is an inquiry at present going on into the economical use of fuel in the burning of bricks. The greatest experts in the country at present find themselves at a loss to state exactly the total quantities of coal needed to burn bricks, and the practice varies most illogically in different brickfields.

Another inquiry is being conducted into the question of the gas-firing of kilns. This method of firing is in use in the potteries for firing clay goods, and it has been used in Scotland for the past 40 years for burning fire-bricks. But the object of the present inquiry is to ascertain whether it can be used for firing ordinary bricks. An expert investigator is being sent over England, Belgium, Germany, and the United States of America to collect the latest data.

#### THE GORGAS MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

As has been noted in SCIENCE, Dr. Richard P. Strong, head of the Harvard School of Tropical Medicine, has been appointed scientific director of the Gorgas Memorial Institute which will be established at Panama for the study of tropical diseases. Dr. Strong will continue his connection with the Harvard School.

The *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* states that the Gorgas Memorial will constitute a tropical station for the Harvard School of Tropical Medicine and for other medical schools. The work in the laboratories at Panama will be separated into four divisions: 1, bacteriology and pathology; 2, protozoology and helminthology; 3, entomology; 4, biological chemistry and pharmacology.

There will be intimate association and co-operation between the Gorgas Memorial Institute and the Santo Tomas and Aneon Hospitals and the Palo Saco Leper Asylum, and the patients in these institutions will be available for observation and study. Venomous animals, poisonous plants, tropical climatology, and the biological effects of sunlight, will also receive attention in the work of the institute.

Provision will be made for advanced instruction in tropical medicine and hygiene of a limited number of properly-qualified graduates of recognized medical schools. A limited number of advanced students will also be admitted for special investigation upon tropical diseases and their prevention.

Properly-qualified volunteer workers will also be received and the privileges of the institute will be extended and a special effort made to attract experienced investigators from scientific institutions in different parts of the world, to carry on researches which can particularly favorably be conducted in a tropical country. It is especially hoped that members of scientific faculties will avail themselves of this opportunity during their sabbatical years or other periods of university leave.

The larger part of the research work of the institute will be carried out in the laboratories in Panama, but it is also contemplated that from time to time field expeditions will be sent to other portions of the tropics for the solution of special problems in connection with the diseases of men or animals.

#### THE TEACHING OF EVOLUTION IN THE KENTUCKY SCHOOLS

A BILL has been introduced into the Kentucky legislature forbidding the use of textbooks in the public schools in which the doctrine of evolution is taught. The movement is said to have been forwarded by lectures in the state by Mr. William Jennings Bryan. A number of telegrams have been addressed to Dr. Frank L. McVey, president of the University of Kentucky, among which are the following:

Cannot believe that any American legislature can be induced to prohibit the teaching in public schools of evolution or of any other scientific